

would be forced to add one more digit to all U.S. phone numbers. The FCC and other reliable sources estimates that the cost to the economy of adding an extra digit to all telephone numbers and reprogramming all computer networks and databases to recognize the expanded numbering format could be as high as \$150 billion, which is about the same cost as fixing the Y2K bug.

□ 1030

But unlike the Y2K problem, the coming crisis in telephone number allocation is entirely preventable. My bill requires the telephone company to stop wasting potential telephone numbers. It promotes competition by ensuring that consumers can take their telephone numbers with them if they choose to switch carriers. It restores the ability of consumers to dial only seven digits and reach anyone in their area code. And it will save the economy \$150 billion in unproductive emergency and preventable remedial action.

AMERICA SCREAMS OUT FOR US TO PROTECT OUR YOUTH

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is troubling, and there is a difference between the two parties. The Democrats want to try to solve Social Security, improve Medicare, and try to secure our youth from guns.

Each day in America 14 kids age 19 and under are killed by guns. In 1996, almost 5,000 juveniles were killed with a firearm. In 1997, 84 percent of the murder victims age 13 to 19 were killed with guns.

Mr. Speaker, 59 percent of the students in grades six through twelve know where to get guns if they want one. And it seems that no one cares about how many they get. Two-thirds of these students say they can acquire a firearm within 24 hours.

It is time, Mr. Speaker, that we address this issue and get on with the concerns of the American people. Kids and guns do not mix, yet Republicans refuse to consider common sense gun safety measures that would only serve to protect kids. It is time for us to do it, Mr. Speaker. America screams out for us to protect our youth.

NO REASON FOR DEMOCRATS TO VOTE DOWN GUN CONTROL BILL

(Mr. SMITH of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I would like to follow up the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) on the gun issue.

Many of us felt that it was important to close the loophole at gun shows. The question and the argument centered around the question—Is 24 hours reasonable to have a criminal history check?

I am from Michigan. In Michigan we have required a criminal history check to purchase a hand gun for the last 50 years. So the reasonableness of keeping guns out of the hands of felons is something I think most of us should agree on.

To close the loophole, at gun shows where individuals that are not licensed gun dealers sell guns to other individuals at the show, a law change is necessary. The suggestion that came from the Democratic side of the aisle to require 24 hours for a criminal history check.

I called the FBI. They reported that with the current 3 days, sometimes they miss that an individual has committed a felony. But what happens is the FBI immediately call the ATF, the local law enforcement, because they have committed two felonies. Once in their certification and once taking possession of a gun. They immediately go after them. They prosecute them. They confiscate the gun.

There was no reason for the Democrats to have voted down this gun control bill that would have closed this gun show loop-hole.

REPUBLICAN TRILLION-DOLLAR TAX BILL IS A DISGRACE

(Mr. LEWIS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the Republican trillion-dollar tax bill is a disgrace. It is the height of irresponsibility. It is a trillion-dollar giveaway to the special interests and the high-rollers.

The Republican plan does nothing to protect Social Security. The Republican plan does nothing to strengthen Medicare. The Republican tax scheme does nothing to reduce our national debt.

We are at a crossroads in America. We have an historic opportunity to preserve and protect Social Security, to strengthen Medicare, and to pay down this awful national debt. We should not, we cannot, and we must not let this historic opportunity pass us by.

We have balanced our national budget. We have put our economic house in order. The Republican tax scheme is irresponsible. It does not address our needs, and it will lead us down the road to economic disaster. The Republican plan is a dangerous and dark step backwards. It should be and it must be defeated, Mr. Speaker.

REPUBLICANS BELIEVE AMERICANS CAN BEST DECIDE HOW TO SPEND THEIR MONEY

(Mr. HAYES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to simply say, my colleague is wrong. My colleague is questioning the motives of his friends and mine on the other side of the aisle.

We simply say this is the American people's money. They deserve to have it back. It is a very simple story. It is not about motives. It is about the fact that it is their money, they should have it back. It is not where it goes. It is whose it is. It is the American people's money. We have taken it from them.

We firmly believe on our side of the aisle that the American people can best decide how to spend their money, not the Government, not a group of bureaucrats in Washington.

HMO REFORM

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to ask my colleagues to stop lollygagging around and to pass meaningful HMO reform as quickly as possible.

Hundreds of Medicare beneficiaries have been dumped by their Medicare HMOs in Texas. Three healthcare plans that I know of, and there could easily be more, have decided not to renew their contracts with the Healthcare Financing Administration.

This is why Medicare HMO reform is needed ASAP. Congress needs to step up to the plate and enact legislation that ensures quality healthcare coverage for all our Nation's elderly. We need to make sure that treatment decisions are made by doctors, like my brother, not insurance company bureaucrats. Plus, we need to hold HMOs accountable for healthcare decisions that people or their doctors disagree with. We must keep Medicare HMOs at the forefront of this Congressional agenda.

LET US NOT GO OVERBOARD WITH IRRATIONAL TAX CUTS

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, our message today is really directed at the majority. We are asking them not to shoot themselves in the foot, not to let this wonderful economy be dissipated by policies that are contrary to the public interest, tax cut policies that are counterproductive at best and severely damaging to our economy at worst.

We know that we are enjoying the finest economy that this country has ever experienced. And it can be a sustainable economy. We have had a decade of unprecedented profits and productivity with low inflation and high employment.

The only thing that could kill that prosperity now is a tax cut that was too deep, that was irrational, that gave relatively small amounts of benefit to a lot of people who need them the least. The fact is that too deep a tax cut will arrest the kind of controlled inflation and low unemployment that we are now experiencing. An \$800-billion tax cut is too deep.

We can responsibly target our tax cuts and achieve more at 1/3 the revenue cost. We can keep this economy going. We can keep inflation low. Do not give Mr. Greenspan reason to increase interest rates. We have got a good thing going. Let us keep it going. Do not go overboard with an irrational tax cut.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HEFLEY). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the pending business is the question of agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the journal.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal of the last day's proceedings.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 346, nays 53, answered "present" 2, not voting 33, as follows:

[Roll No. 297]

YEAS—346

Abercrombie	Bishop	Capps
Ackerman	Blagojevich	Cardin
Allen	Bliley	Castle
Andrews	Blumenauer	Chabot
Armey	Blunt	Chambliss
Bachus	Boehlert	Clayton
Baird	Boehner	Clement
Baker	Bonilla	Coble
Baldacci	Bono	Coburn
Ballenger	Boswell	Collins
Barcia	Boucher	Combest
Barr	Boyd	Condit
Barrett (NE)	Brady (PA)	Conyers
Barrett (WI)	Brady (TX)	Cook
Bartlett	Brown (FL)	Cooksey
Barton	Brown (OH)	Cox
Bass	Bryant	Coyne
Bateman	Burton	Cramer
Becerra	Buyer	Crowley
Bentsen	Callahan	Cubin
Bereuter	Calvert	Cunningham
Berkley	Camp	Danner
Berman	Campbell	Davis (FL)
Berry	Canady	Davis (IL)
Biggert	Cannon	Davis (VA)

Deal	Kilpatrick	Rahall
DeGette	Kind (WI)	Rangel
DeLauro	King (NY)	Reyes
DeLay	Kingston	Reynolds
DeMint	Kleczka	Riley
Deutsch	Klink	Rodriguez
Diaz-Balart	Knollenberg	Roemer
Dickey	Kolbe	Rogers
Dicks	Kuykendall	Rohrabacher
Doggett	LaHood	Ros-Lehtinen
Dooley	Lampson	Rothman
Doolittle	Lantos	Roukema
Doyle	Largent	Roybal-Allard
Dreier	Larson	Royce
Duncan	LaTourette	Ryan (WI)
Dunn	Lazio	Salmon
Edwards	Leach	Sanchez
Ehlers	Lee	Sanders
Ehrlich	Levin	Sandlin
Emerson	Lewis (GA)	Sanford
Engel	Lewis (KY)	Sawyer
Eshoo	Linder	Saxton
Etheridge	Lipinski	Scarborough
Evans	Lofgren	Schakowsky
Everett	Lowe	Scott
Ewing	Lucas (KY)	Sensenbrenner
Farr	Lucas (OK)	Serrano
Fletcher	Luther	Sessions
Foley	Maloney (CT)	Shadegg
Forbes	Maloney (NY)	Shaw
Ford	Manzullo	Shays
Fossella	Markey	Sherman
Fowler	Martinez	Sherwood
Frank (MA)	Mascara	Shimkus
Franks (NJ)	Matsui	Shows
Frelinghuysen	McCarthy (MO)	Shuster
Galleghy	McCarthy (NY)	Simpson
Ganske	McCollum	Sisisky
Gejdenson	McCrery	Skeen
Gekas	McHugh	Skelton
Gilchrest	McInnis	Smith (MI)
Gilman	McIntosh	Smith (NJ)
Gonzalez	McIntyre	Smith (TX)
Goode	McKeon	Smith (WA)
Goodlatte	Meehan	Snyder
Goodling	Meeks (NY)	Souder
Gordon	Menendez	Spence
Goss	Metcalfe	Spratt
Graham	Mica	Stark
Granger	Millender-	Stearns
Green (TX)	McDonald	Stenholm
Green (WI)	Miller (FL)	Stump
Greenwood	Miller, Gary	Stupak
Hall (OH)	Minge	Sununu
Hall (TX)	Mink	Talent
Hansen	Moakley	Tauscher
Hastings (FL)	Mollohan	Tauzin
Hastings (WA)	Moore	Taylor (NC)
Hayes	Moran (VA)	Terry
Hayworth	Morella	Thomas
Hefley	Murtha	Thornberry
Herger	Myrick	Thune
Hill (IN)	Nadler	Tiahrt
Hinojosa	Napolitano	Tierney
Hobson	Nethercutt	Toomey
Hoeffel	Ney	Towns
Hoekstra	Northup	Trafficant
Holden	Norwood	Turner
Holt	Nussle	Upton
Hooley	Obey	Velazquez
Horn	Oliver	Vento
Hostettler	Ortiz	Vitter
Houghton	Ose	Walden
Hoyer	Owens	Walsh
Hyde	Oxley	Wamp
Insee	Packard	Watkins
Isakson	Pascrell	Watt (NC)
Istook	Paul	Waxman
Jackson (IL)	Payne	Weiner
Jackson-Lee	Pease	Weldon (FL)
(TX)	Pelosi	Wexler
Jefferson	Peterson (PA)	Weygand
Jenkins	Petri	Whitfield
John	Pickering	Wicker
Johnson, E.B.	Pitts	Wilson
Johnson, Sam	Pomeroy	Wise
Jones (NC)	Portman	Wolf
Kanjorski	Price (NC)	Woolsey
Kaptur	Pryce (OH)	Wynn
Kelly	Quinn	Young (AK)
Kildee	Radanovich	Young (FL)

NAYS—53

Aderholt	Billirakis	Borski
Bilbray	Bonior	Clay

Clyburn	Kucinich	Sabo
Costello	LaFalce	Schaffer
Crane	LoBiondo	Slaughter
DeFazio	McGovern	Strickland
Fattah	McKinney	Sweeney
Filner	Moran (KS)	Tanner
Gephardt	Neal	Taylor (MS)
Gibbons	Oberstar	Thompson (CA)
Gillmor	Pallone	Thompson (MS)
Gutknecht	Pastor	Udall (CO)
Hill (MT)	Peterson (MN)	Udall (NM)
Hilleary	Phelps	Visclosky
Hilliard	Pickett	Waters
Hinchey	Pombo	Weller
Hulshof	Ramstad	Wu
Hutchinson	Rogan	

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—2

Carson	Tancred
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NOT VOTING—33

Archer	Frost	Meek (FL)
Baldwin	Gutierrez	Miller, George
Brown (CA)	Hunter	Porter
Burr	Johnson (CT)	Regula
Capuano	Jones (OH)	Rivers
Chenoweth	Kasich	Rush
Cummings	Kennedy	Ryun (KS)
Delahunt	Latham	Stabenow
Dingell	Lewis (CA)	Thurman
Dixon	McDermott	Watts (OK)
English	McNulty	Weldon (PA)

□ 1101

Mr. PHELPS changed his vote from "yea" to "nay."

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY PROTECTION ACT OF 1999

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 245 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 245

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 1691) to protect religious liberty. The bill shall be considered as read for amendment. The amendment recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate on the bill, as amended, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary; (2) a further amendment printed in the Congressional Record pursuant to clause 8 of rule XVIII, if offered by Representative Conyers of Michigan or his designee, which shall be considered as read and shall be separately debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent; and (3) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HEFLEY). The gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL), pending which I